

Vehicle Theft

Did you know?

- ✓ Approximately 2500 Vehicles are stolen in Montgomery County each year
- ✓ Every 27 seconds a car is stolen in the United States
- ✓ Every 15 minutes a car is stolen in the State of Maryland
- ✓ 95% of all vehicles stolen did not have a theft prevention device
- ✓ More than 66% of vehicle thefts occurred at night
- ✓ 63% of all vehicles stolen had one or more doors unlocked
- ✓ 24% of all vehicles stolen had the key in the ignition or vehicle
- ✓ 30% of vehicles are never recovered

Fuel prices are high . . . be aware of thieves siphoning fuel from vehicles or puncturing fuel tanks to steal the fuel.

Protect your vehicle!

Make your vehicle harder to steal by using the "Layer Approach". The more layers you use the harder it will be for criminals to steal.

Layer 1 . . . Common Sense

- ✓ Lock your car
- ✓ Roll up windows
- ✓ Don't leave keys in vehicle
- ✓ Park in well lit area
- ✓ Park in a garage if possible
- ✓ Don't leave valuables in plain sight

Layer 2 . . . Anti Theft Devices

- ✓ Steering wheel locks
- ✓ Glass etching
- ✓ Audible alarms
- ✓ Brake pedal lock
- ✓ Theft deterrent decals - Maryland "watch your car" program

Layer 3 . . . Vehicle immobilizers

- ✓ Smart keys
- ✓ Kill switch
- ✓ Ignition interrupters

Layer 4 . . . Recovery Systems

- ✓ GPS trackers
- ✓ Devices such as Lojack

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services

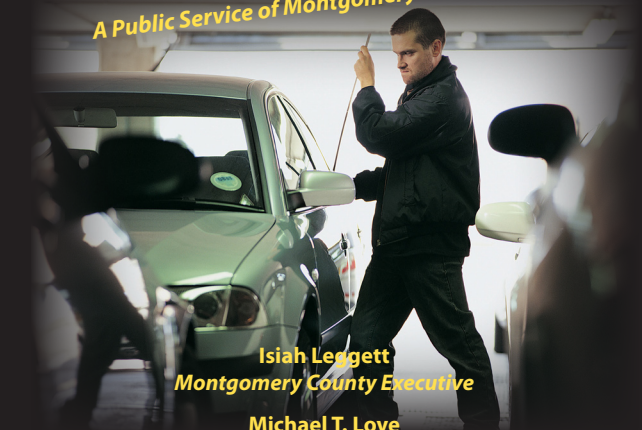
Office of the Fire Marshal

FIRE & EXPLOSIVE INVESTIGATION



Vehicle Theft and Arson Prevention

A Public Service of Montgomery County, Maryland



Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive

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Montgomery County Fire Marshal

Vehicle Arson

- ✓ There are approximately 200 Vehicle fires in Montgomery County each year
- ✓ Approximately 75-80% of incendiary vehicle fires were stolen
- ✓ Approximately 60% of all vehicle fires are incendiary
- ✓ Nationally nearly 1 out of 5 fires involves a vehicle
- ✓ Nationally 1 out of 8 fire deaths results from a vehicle fire

Property is replaceable ~ people are not.

Keep yourself from becoming a victim

- ✓ Report abandoned vehicles to police
- ✓ Park in well lit areas
- ✓ Use secured and attended parking lots
- ✓ Always lock your doors
- ✓ Use anti theft devices
- ✓ Park your car in your garage

If your car catches fire

- ✓ Pull over
- ✓ Turn off the car
- ✓ Exit the vehicle
- ✓ Dial 911
- ✓ Stay away from the vehicle

Preventative

- ✓ Regular maintenance
- ✓ Get unusual noises and odors checked out
- ✓ Don't park in or next to leaf piles. The heat from your engine can ignite the leaves
- ✓ If your car is parked for an extended period animals may have used it to make a nest
- ✓ Proper disposal of cigarettes and matches will minimize the risk they pose

A few reasons why

- ✓ Can't afford car payments
- ✓ Owe more than the vehicle is worth
- ✓ Want to trade up (get a newer car)
- ✓ Cover up a crime
- ✓ Juvenile fire setters and vandalism
- ✓ Destroy evidence
- ✓ Riots
- ✓ Gang initiations
- ✓ Thrill seekers and dares
- ✓ Psychological compulsion
- ✓ Insurance fraud

Arson is not a victimless crime. Every year people are injured and killed due to arson fires. People's property and memories are lost. Insurance premiums are on the rise.

The Montgomery County Fire and Explosives Investigation Section and the Montgomery County Police Centralized Auto Theft Section have created a task force to combat vehicle arsons and vehicle theft.

The Vehicle Anti-Theft and Vehicle Arson Task Force (VATVA) and the Maryland/District of Columbia Anti-Car Theft Committee (MD/DC ACT) are committed to protecting the community from individuals who victimize the owners of vehicles in Maryland.

The MD/DC ACT has provided funding for telephone lines and reward money for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of individuals responsible for vehicle-related arsons in Montgomery County.

Anyone who has information about a fire is urged to call

The Arson Tip Line
240-777-2263
Or
Crime Solvers
240-773-5038

For more information about arson and fire prevention please contact

Montgomery County
Fire and Explosive Investigations
240-777-2255

Or you can check us out on the web at
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/firerescue/crrs/fireinvest/index.asp